

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 280599
ORIGIN SNM-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 280599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: ANTI-NARCOTICS COMMUNICATIONS

REFS: A) RANGOON 3605, B) RANGOON 3192; C) STATE 273742

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONSIDERED BURMESE REQUIREMENTS IN CONSULTATION WITH PAUL KATZ. UNFORTUNATELY, MANY OF HIS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BASED UPON HIS RANGOON VISIT WERE PRELIMINARY AND CONJECTURAL IN NATURE DUE TO GUB RETIC-NCEIN THEIR DISCUSSIONS. DESPITE A LACK OF FULL INFORMATION, WE HAVE MADE TENTATIVE DECISIONS AS TO WHAT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WE CAN PROVIDE THE GUB IN FY 1978. FINAL DECISIONS WILL BE WITHHELD PENDING 1) RESPONSE FROM EMBASSY TO THIS CABLE AS WELL AS REFTEL C, 2) RETURN OF KATZ FROM HIS UN CONSULTATION IN BURMA, AND 3) CONGRESSIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROGRAM REVISION DISCUSSED IN REFTEL C. THE FULL KATZ REPORT WILL BE
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POUCHED.

2. PENDING CONFIRMATION FROM EMBASSY ISLAMABAD OF THEIR AVAILABILITY, WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE 50 SC-120 HF/SSB TRANSCEIVERS REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL B. SHIPPING, RECONFIGURATION, AND ACCESSORIES ARE EXPECTED TO COST AN ESTIMATED \$70,000.

3. UPON BURMESE SELECTION OF APPROPRIATE MODELS, WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE SMALL UNIT VHF/FM PORTABLE TRANSCEIVERS MENTIONED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL B. WE ESTIMATE THAT 40 SUCH UNITS WILL COST \$70,000.

4. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO FUND THE COMSHELL MOUNTAIN TOP REPEATERS DESCRIBED IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL C AT THIS TIME. OUR RESERVATIONS ARE BASED UPON COST AND BUDGETARY CONCERNS (SEE REFTEL C) AS WELL AS A BELIEF THAT SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD BE BEYOND GUB MEANS TO SUPPORT. WE PROPOSE, THEREFORE, POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM TO A FUTURE DATE.

5. WE ARE ALSO RELUCTANT TO FUND THE MINI-CALL HF/SSB TRANSCEIVERS DISCUSSED IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL B. WE BELIEVE PERFORMANCE OF THESE VERY LOW POWERED (SINGLE WATT) UNITS WOULD BE ERRATIC DUE TO VARIABLES INTRODUCED BY TIME OF DAY AND ATMOSPHERIC/ IONOSPHERIC CHANGES.

6. WE ARE PREPARED TO FUND THE \$4000 NECESSARY FOR THE AGENT ALARM SYSTEM DESCRIBED IN PARA 6 OF REFTEL B AS WELL AS IN REFTEL A.

7. WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE \$12,500 IN SPARE PARTS FOR PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED SC-130 TRANSCEIVERS AND \$1,100 FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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120 CRYSTALS FOR CONVERSION OF PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED FM-1 AND FM-5 UNITS (PARA 7 OF REFTEL B).

8. THE COST OF THE ITEMS IN PARAS 2,3,6, AND 7 ABOVE WILL COME TO APPROXIMATELY \$157,000. THIS IS WITHIN THE \$200,000 FIGURE PROJECTED IN REFTEL C. THESE ITEMS MUST, HOWEVER, BE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL PROGRAM REVISION DESCRIBED IN THAT CABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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